THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) All transmission lines and sub-stations, alongwith associated facilities and supporting equipment of power utilities in the Central Sector will be taken over by the National Power Transmission Corporation Ltd. (NPTC) in a phased manner.

(b) The National Power Transmission Corporation will be responsible for operation, maintenance and construction of all transmission systems and associated sub-stations in the Central Sector, but in close co-ordination with State Electricity Boards so that large blocks of power could ultimately be moved from various generating sources under the Central Sector to the load centres within the region, as well as across the regions, with reliability, security and economy.

Accident at Dudhichua Coal Project

*32. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a disastrous accident had taken place at Dudhichua project of Northern Coalfields Limited in Singrauli, Madhya Pradesh in June, 1991; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) An accident occurred on 8-6-91 in the Coal Handling Plant being constructed by a Contractor at Dudhichua Project of Northern Coalfields Limited. Heavy downpour 155.8 mm resulted in the collapse of the tunnel under construction. Seven workers of the contractor got trapped in the tunnel and died. Torrential rains coupled with break-down in power supply hindered the speed of dewatering operations. Three dead bodies were recovered on 10-6-91, three on 13-6-91 and one on 14-6-91. Besides these, three persons were injured, out of whom, two were treated in the NCL hospital while the third only required first-aid.

Decline in visits by foreign tourists

*33. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of foreign tourists that arrived in the country during the last three years, till date;

(b) the amount of foreign exchange earned through these foreign tourists during the said period;

(c) whether it is a fact that the deteriorating law and order situation in some States has led to a decline in foreign tourist arrivals;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what urgent steps Government propose to take to increase the number of foreign tourists in the country?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) The number of foreign tourists, including the nationals of Pakistan and Bangladesh who visited India and the estimated foreign exchange earnings from tourism during the last three years are as given below:

Year	Tourist Arrivals	Estimated foreign exchange earnings (Rs. in Crores)
1988-89 . .	1,619,298	2,103
1989-90 . .	1,765,079	2,456
1990-91 . .	1,613,681	2,444